

Statewide Data Program Needs Assessment

North Central Regional Office Resource Assessment Programs

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Program Description

The Resource Assessment Branch in the North Central Region Office does most of the basic data collection for what would typically be thought of as the Data Program. This includes surface water monitoring, bathymetry, water quality monitoring, and special projects.

Bathymetry and water quality monitoring are funded mostly by the State Water Project. Surface water monitoring is two-thirds funded by the State Water Project. The other one-third is from various programs.

Data Needs

The Special Projects Group creates flow data. They do special projects, and velocity mappings for fish barriers. Much of this is available through the continuous data portion of Water Data Library.

The Bay Delta Office, Operations and Maintenance and the Division of Environmental Services are the main clients for this information.

The City of Manteca uses one site, but does not pay for it.

Most of the data is telemetered and goes into CDEC.

The Bathymetry Group works on scour studies in the north and south Delta. There are some sedimentation studies in the south Delta. There are some flow station mappings, with maps of how the flow changes. Finally, there are many special studies.

The main clients are Operations and Maintenance, Bay Delta Office, and the Division of Environmental Services.

The Surface Water Group collects stage and flow data. There is some temperature and conductivity, soluble solids and turbidity data. The group has 76 site + variable combinations, and about 50 sites. All but 10 of these sites are in the Delta. For the sites in the Delta, the data is collected for the 401 permit requirements for the temporary barriers every year.

Data from 30 sites goes to CDEC.

There are 42 sites on a semi-annual water quality run. These have been monitored since the 1950s. Every fifth year, the group collects water data from an additional five sites. When asked, they did not know why these sites were only monitored every five years.

About 20% (1/5) of the funding comes from the Water Quantity and Quality fund. The Bay Delta Office, Operations and Maintenance the Division of Environmental Services, and Division of Flood Management, and the Sacramento Valley Water Management Program pick up the remainder of the funding.

The Water Quality Group has seven projects with 34 sites:

- Climate change with the USGS has six sites

- The temporary barriers have 13 sites

- The permanent barriers have 2 sites

- The Delta smelt project has 4 – 6 sites

- The Rock Slough project has 4 sites for the Bay Delta Hearings

- The Stockton Port project has 4 sites for the Bay Delta Hearings

- The Truckee River Operating Agreement has the remainder of the sites.

The Bay Delta Office, Operations and Maintenance the Division of Environmental Services, SWAPO and TROA are the main clients for this information.

If Bryte Laboratory was not on overhead, the costs for this program would increase a lot.

What Data does the Program Use

Data Management

Special projects would like a more visible link on CDEC to the data the Dave Huston makes available. Also, a more visible statement that the data on CDEC has not been checked would be nice.

The Bathymetry Group stores data on local file servers. They use SQL Sever, not Oracle.

The Bathymetry Group would like a third party to audit their data. In the past, there has been some question about the quality of their data. The Group has resolved the problems, but the questions persist.

There is duplication of data collection. Some of this is with contractors.

The Surface Water Group has all their data since 1984 in electronic format. Before 1984, there is many data on hand sheets and paper. Some of this data goes back to the 1920s. There are 9 – 10 file drawers of data that would be nice to get this data into Water Data Library.

The Special Projects Group has some issues with variables in Hydstra. Mostly this has to do with using subvariables that Greg wants to get rid of or posting their output from ModSyn (the modeling part of Hydstra).

The real time data goes to CDEC. It would be nice if Hydstra could take this telemetered data and put it in a working file.

The Surface Water Group has training issues. Kenny is new and needs to get up to speed on the Program.

The Branch heavily uses cell phones, both for safety and data collection. GOES does not have the bandwidth to collect all the data the group collects, so they use cell phones. The Governor's order to reduce the number of cell phones will hurt the branch.

Unmet Needs

Apportioning Costs

The costs should be apportioned based on need. The group acknowledged there is a free rider problem.

The data program could be put on overhead.

The public could be charged for data requests. This is done (somewhat) by the groundwater folks.

There could be a flat fee for the data program. The fee would provide a user (single?) access to Water Data Library for a year.

Other Issues

The group suggested that we talk to:

Tracy Petit, Dan Yamaka and David Rizado in the Division of Operations and Maintenance

Jon Ericson in the Division of Flood Management
about snow surveys and flood issues